

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01

SSM-03 IO-13 AID-05 /087 W

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O R 221049Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8769

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: JULY 22 SYRIAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHT REACTION TO ASAD'S
SPEECH; NO MENTION OF PALESTINIAN DELEGATION
ACCOMPANYING JALLUD TO DAMASCUS

1. JULY 22 SYRIAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED FAVORABLE ARAB AND
INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO PRES. ASAD'S JULY 20 SPEECH.
PRESS BANNERED: "WIDESPREAD ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL WELCOME
TO SPEECH. SPEECH (PROVIDES) PROGRAM FOR ARAB ACTION AND
LANTERN FOR NATIONAL STRUGGLE. FAHUM -- 'PLO UNDERSTANDS
GREAT ROLE OF SYRIA IN SUSTAINING PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE.'
LEBANESE CIRCLES -- 'PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS HARD BLOW TO
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ALL CONSPIRATORS AGAINST LEBANON, SYRIA AND PALESTINIANS.'

AL-ANWAR -- 'PRES. FOILED SCHEMES OF PARTITION AND OF LIQUIDATING PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE.'"

2. MEDIA REPORTED JALLUD'S RETURN TO DAMASCUS AFTERNOON JULY 21 BUT MADE NO MENTION OF ANY PALESTINIAN DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING HIM.

3. TO OBTAIN FAVORABLE PALESTINIAN COMMENT ON ASAD'S SPEECH, SANA INTERVIEWED PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN KHALID FAHUM. FAHUM PRAISED SPEECH AND CALLED FOR END TO FIGHTING IN LEBANON, MAINTENANCE OF FIRM SYRO-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS AND NECESSITY OF SYRO-PALESTINIAN MEETING TO ELIMINATE DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN TWO PARTIES.

4. MEDIA CITED BEIRUT RADIO REPORT OF FRANGIE'S MESSAGE TO ASAD CONGRATULATING SYRIAN LEADER FOR POINTING OUT THAT FIGHTING IN LEBANON WILL NOT HELP PALESTINIANS RECOVER THEIR TERRITORY.

5. LEADER OF NASSERITE ORGANIZATION IN BAALBEK TOLD PRESS THAT SYRIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON UNDERMINED SCHEMES OF PURPORTED LEFTISTS WHOSE ACTIONS OFFER JUSTIFICATION FOR FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON.

6. PRESS REPORTED THAT ASF HAD TAKEN UP POSITIONS IN MUSEUM AREA OF BEIRUT, BUT TRUCE AGREED UPON TO ALLOW REMOVAL OF WOUNDED FROM TELL ZAATAR NOT IMPLEMENTED. CLASHES CONTINUED IN BEIRUT AND ITS SUBURBS.

7. SYRIAN COLUMNISTS DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO MINING ASAD SPEECH TO EXTRACT ALL ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANCE. AL-BAATH COMMUNIST PRAISED ASAD'S REVELATION THAT HE HAD SPURNED AMERICAN OFFERS AS EVIDENCE THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT COMPROMISE ARAB PRINCIPLES. HE SAID SYRIA BECAME TARGET OF CONSPIRACY BECAUSE IT HAD OPPOSED AMERICAN SCHEMES. ANOTHER COLUMNIST CONCLUDED HIS REVIEW OF SPEECH WITH ASSERTION THAT SYRO-PALESTINIAN MEETING SHOULD BE PALESTINIAN GOAL.

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7. COMMENT: PRESS IS EMBARKED ON MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO "SELL" ASAD'S SPEECH AND SYRIAN POSITION. SYRIANS ONCE AGAIN HAVE RELIED UPON FAHUM TO PROVIDE PUBLIC PALESTINIAN SEAL OF APPROVAL ON MAJOR SARG STATEMENT. SOME LOCAL DAMASCENES WE HAVE TALKED WITH HAVE INTERPRETED ASAD'S REMARKS ABOUT U.S. SURPRISINGLY COMPLIMENTARY. ONE CABINET MINISTER NOTED TO AMBASSADOR THAT SYRIAN PRESS UP TO ITS USUAL GAME IN TWISTING PRESIDENTIAL TEXT TO

MAKE IT APPEAR ANTI-AMERICAN.
MURPHY

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